COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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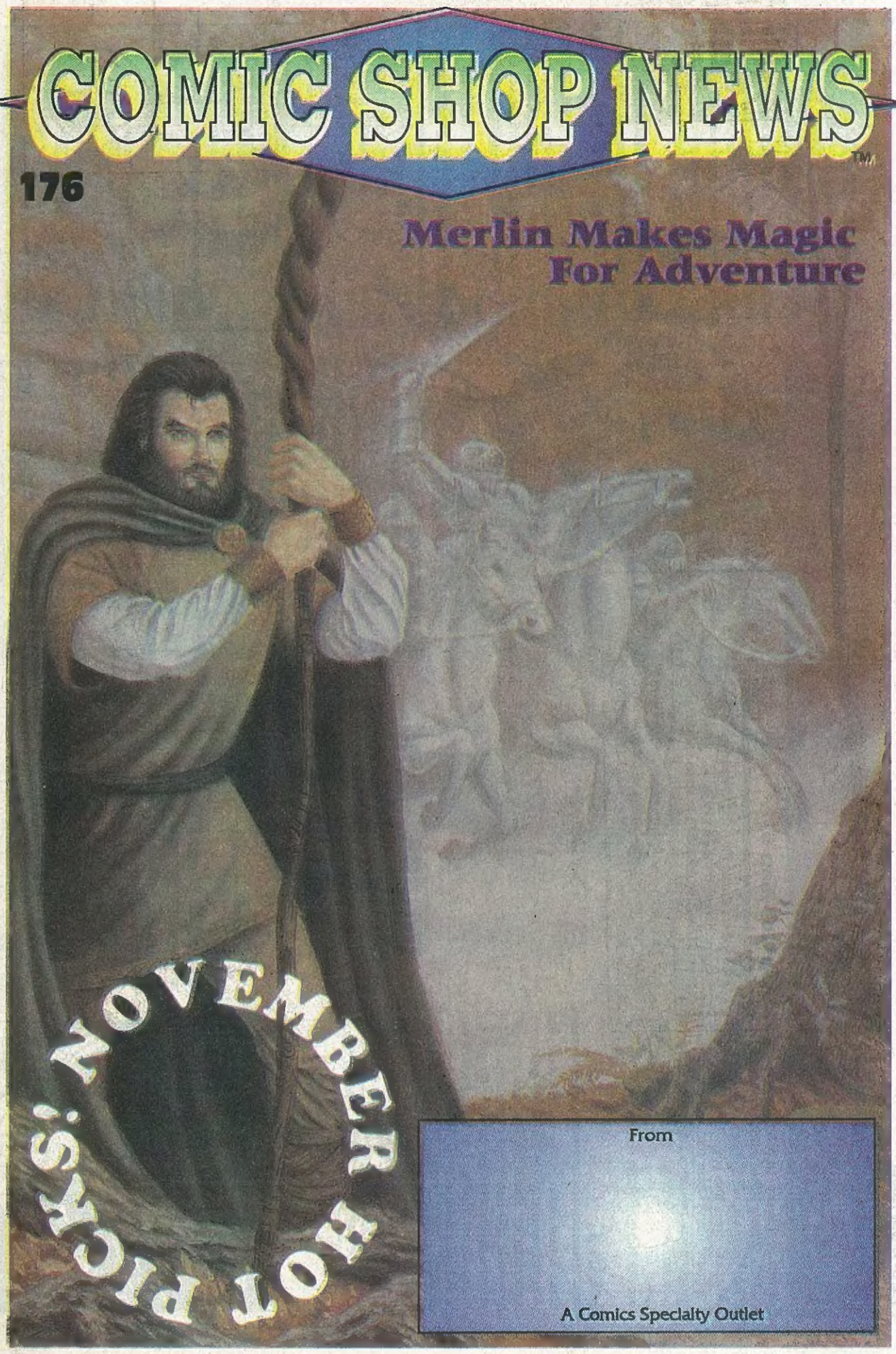
Merlin Makes Magic For Adventure



NOVEMBER HOT PICKS!

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

Merlin Plies His Magic at Adventure

The Arthurian Saga is the stuff of which comics are made: grand heroes, diabolical villains, machiavellian plots, brutal battles, and magic galore. Other comics series, such as ***Camelot 3000*** and ***Camelot Eternal***, have touched on the legend of Camelot, but the focus has always been King Arthur. In R.A. Jones and Rob Davis' new Arthurian limited series, though, the emphasis shifts to Arthur's teacher, Merlin.

Merlin follows the early life of the sorcerer who instigated the creation of Camelot. Jones, the writer of the series, has structured his Merlin saga along the lines of a tragic play, borrowing details of Merlin's life from other Arthurian sources and fleshing it out with his own original vision.

"In writing ***Merlin,*** I tried an approach much different than is usually done with Arthurian subjects," Jones said. "Usually, the action takes place in a medieval setting, but in ***Merlin,*** everything is taking place much earlier, in the 5th Century." This puts Jones' ***Merlin*** much closer in time to the actual creation of the Arthurian legend by such pre-Malory authors as Wace.

The story reveals the story of Merlin's birth--and his true identity as the offspring of a brutal rape of a young nun at the hands of an incubus. Merlin's development from a child to the most powerful magician of his time is traced in ***Merlin***'s six issue run.

"Of the books I've done so far, ***Merlin*** comes a close second to being the most fun," said artist Rob Davis, who has previously worked with Jones on ***Scimidar.*** "I've drawn more outdoor scenes, horses, showcased my stuff and stretched my artistic muscles a bit. I always look for a project that pushes me in one direction or another. I always wanted to be pushed. I never want to draw the same thing over and over again or become jaded." Davis is joined by inker Bruce McKorkindale, who worked with him on ***Scimidar.***

"Rob and Bruce are a perfect team," Jones said. "They captured exactly what I wanted. While I was writing ***Merlin,*** I was counting on the art to convey the mood, and I think they have done just that."

Merlin 1, featuring a cover by Mitch Foust, is scheduled for December release. The second issue, slated to appear in January, will feature a cover by Dave Dorman. Each issue is priced at $2.50.

by WAYNE LEE

New Robin, New Costume, New Collector's Item!

CSN gave you the scoop on the new Robin limited series back in issue 169--but now we can tell you that this miniseries won't actually mark Tim Drake's *debut* in costume as Robin. That landmark event will occur in ***Batman 457,*** slated for late October release--and DC is making it quite a memorable occasion!

DC will be offering banners, mobiles, stickers, and a 24" x 72" door poster of the new Robin to help stores make fans aware of this "banner event," and they will even hold a news conference to make the outside world aware of this event; look for wire service coverage of the new Robin to create excitement to rival that seen when the previous Robin died in "Death in the Family."

Batman 457 features an Alan Grant/Norm Breyfogle/Steve Mitchell story that makes Batman a prisoner of the Scarecrow. Ironically, Batman's future existence is dependent on the new Robin--even though Batman had ordered Tim not to follow him on this mission!

Batman 457 will also feature the first appearance of the new Robin *costume;* this costume is based on the classic Robin costume, but some alterations have been made to update the costume. DC is keeping the design of the new costume a top secret; fans will have their first opportunity to see it in ***Batman 457*** which is available now in comic shops across the country.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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Dark Horse Cements Deal For New Concrete Limited Series in '91

Concrete fans have had all too little new Concrete material to enjoy in 1990--but Concrete creator Paul Chadwick plans to make up for the popular hero's absence from the comics racks with Concrete's first full-color miniseries. The series, entitled *Fragile Creature*, will be written and illustrated by Paul Chadwick and colored by Elizabeth Chadwick; it is tentatively slated to debut in spring 1991.

"I'm extremely please to be back working with these characters," Chadwick said, "and I'd like to impress upon everyone that this new Concrete series is going to be a fresh, new start for all of us!"

Bob Schreck, Marketing Director of Dark Horse, added that the company intended to make Concrete very visible in the comic shops in '91, not only through the miniseries but also through "...various ancilliery licensed products set to reach retailers around the time of the series' release. We're certain that the success of this award-winning character will increase as a result of Paul's ever-evolving growth as a storyteller and Dark Horse's ability at getting the word out to reach new readers."

Randy Stradley, editor of ***Concrete: Fragile Creature***, said, "I'm really looking forward to this series' release. I've just received the completed first issue and it's exciting to see some of the interesting storytelling devices that Paul's brought to his latest effort. It's clear he's continuing to challenge himself and his readers, proving that when an artist is stimulated by his craft, the results are extremely rewarding for everyone. Folks, you are in for a real treat!"

The first 32-page full-color issue of ***Concrete: Fragile Creature*** should reach comic shops in May of 1991. To give ***Concrete*** fans some Concrete material to enjoy until then, Dark Horse will collect all the Concrete short stories from ***Dark Horse Presents*** into a single volume entitled ***Concrete: Complete Short Stories 1986-1989***; this volume will include a new painted cover by Paul Chadwick and an introduction by Archie Goodwin. Look for it in December.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

X Marks the Spot

Professor X Returns to Earth

X-Men fans may think that the excitement for 1990 is over once The X-Tinction Agenda is completed--but boy, do they have a surprise coming! As it turns out, some of the biggest x-citement can be found in ***X-Men 273***--because that's when Professor X returns to Earth!

For several years now, Professor Xavier has been "on leave" from the X-Men, involved in space exploits with the Starjammers. He reappears in ***X-Men 273***, though--and he really needs the X-Men's help, judging from the distress call he sends them from deep space.

Marvel has paid careful attention to the many mutant fans who have been disappointed with the lack of strong, easy-to-follow plots in ***The X-Men***; that's a problem they plan to remedy in the coming year, and this new storyline is a vital part of the plan, since it brings back the man who is perceived by many as the anchor of the team.

The New Mutants and X-Factor will also appear in ***X-Men 273***--and Xavier's reappearance in the Marvel mutant universe will have repercussions in these books as well as in X-Men. What sort of repercussions? Neither Chris Claremont nor Jim Lee are ready to reveal quite yet...

X-Men 273 is scheduled for December 6th release.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

Innovation Brings Gene Wolfe Out of the Shadows

Innovation has announced that it will continue to develop its line of adaptations with a new addition based on the Nebula-Award-Winning novel by Gene Wolfe, ***The Shadow of the Torturer.*** Wolfe's novel, the first of the five-volume "Book of the New Sun" series, will become a six-issue fully-painted color miniseries beginning in early 1991, presented in the same format as Innovation's ***Vampire Lestat*** series.

"Six issues will give us the room to let the full beauty and the subtlety of the novel come through," David Campiti, publisher of Innovation, said.

The Shadow of the Torturer is the tale of an apprentice torturer, Severian, and his expulsion from the torturers' guild because of a moment of compassion. Severian allowed a victim to commit suicide before she could be tortured--and because of that, he has brought shame to himself and the torturers' guild.

"These books are on a truly epic scale," said Scott Rockwell, who is writing the adaptation, "with wildly imaginative situations, unforgettable monsters and aliens, but with absolutely human characters.

"Gene Wolfe is one of the most respected authors in science fiction, and I'm particularly proud--and awed--to be adapting this book."

Rockwell is already hard at work on another adaptation for Innovation, Terry Pratchett's ***The Colour of Magic***, set to debut in December. He also has written the ***Cyberpunk*** series for Innovation. Rockwell has completed the scripts for the ***Shadow of the Torturer*** series already.

Gene Wolfe, the author of the novel ***The Shadow of the Torturer,*** is involved with the Innovation project: he will personally supervise the adaptation of his his novel to comic form. "After reading the scripts, I'm very enthusiastic about the whole project," Wolfe said. "These capture the fierce spirit of the books while adding a new dimension."

Each issue of ***Shadow of the Torturer*** will be priced at $2.50; if this series proves as successful as Innovation expects, then adaptations of the other novels in the "Book of the New Sun" series will follow.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

NEWSBRIEFS

A BREED APART TRIES TO CAPTURE TV SERIES FEEL

Alien Nation has been taken off the air by Fox Network, leaving a plethora of disgruntled fans who miss the interaction of George and Sykes. Adventure Comics has a substitute for the television series that they think is sure to please its fans, though: a comic book limited series that captures the feel of the television series while using different characters.

Steven Phillip Jones, the writer of the series ***Alien Nation: A Breed Apart***, is setting his sights on the television series, at least insofar as quality of the storyline is concerned. " I was very impressed with the television series and I want to capture the same spirit," he said. His story sounds like it could have been an episode of ***Alien Nation***: a Newcomer detective investigates an assassination that injured his human partner, Wayne Hadenfeldt. "Log b'Omen is an intelligent and sensitive Newcomer whose loyalty to his job and partner runs deep," Jones said. He sees Hadenfeldt and his family as, in effect, a part of his own family, and therefore takes his search for the killer seriously.

Jones' story is illustrated by **Stan Timmons** and **Jimmy Palmiotti,** and is the latest in a planned series of Alien Nation miniseries. Upcoming books include ***Alien Nation: The Skin Trade*** by **Lowell Cunningham** and **Leonard Kirk** and ***Alien Nation: The First Comers*** by **Martin Powell** and **Tim Eldred.** The first issue of ***Alien Nation: A Breed Apart*** is scheduled for November release and is priced at $2.50.

A HARDCOVER HOLIDAY SEASON

Marvel fans are going to find a cornucopia of hardcovers waiting for them in comic shops in the next month or so; it seems that Marvel's carefully-laid plan to release hardcovers over the three or four month period prior to Christmas has been modified. Now, you can look for the ***Marvel Masterworks*** Volumes on this schedule: ***Marvel Masterworks 14: Captain America*** will reach comic shops on November 23rd; ***Marvel Masterworks 15: Silver Surfer*** will now appear on December 6th; and ***Marvel Masterworks 13: Fantastic Four*** will be the final ***Masterworks*** release for the year, appearing on December 13th. Meanwhile, the ***Classic Captain America*** hardcover is now scheduled for November 15th release--and the ***Harvey Kurtzman's Strange Adventures*** hardcover should appear at about the same time. Right now, Marvel is expecting to release the ***Elektra*** hardcover by Frank Miller and Lynn Varley on December 20th, making it a perfect Christmas gift--if you haven't already selected one of those other nifty Marvel hardcovers as a gift item, that is!...

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I WAS MADE A GREEN LANTERN AT LARGE BY THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE--PERSONALLY!
MY UNCLE'S GOT PULL WITH THOSE GUYS!

THE FIRST PART OF A NEW *CEREAL* SERIAL

It's not too hard to guess what popular ring-wielder is guest-starring in ***Green Lantern #9***; as soon as you hear the title "G'Nortin', Honey," you can probably figure it out. ***Green Lantern #9*** begins a four-part story highlighting the new Green Lantern of Earth, Guy Gardner; Guy is quite happy to be Earth's ring-wielder...until he remembers that there's another earthbound Green Lantern who goes by the name of G'nort. While Guy is trying his best to get rid of G'Nort, Green Lantern readers will learn all about this furry guardian--including his origin! **Gerard Jones, Joe Staton,** and **Bruce Patterson** will produce this four-part tale; the first installment is slated for December 20th release.

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR 4 A WARNER PRODUCTION

No, Warner Brothers hasn't taken over this Twentieth Century Fox-based miniseries--we're talking **Chris Warner** here! Fan-fave Warner will fill in for **Phil Norwood** as the artist on the final issue of the ***Aliens Vs. Predator*** miniseries. This finale pits Machiko and a lone predator against the seemingly irresistible Alien hordes. **Randy Stradley** writes the 30-page climax to the series, while **Robert Campanella** inks and **Monika Livingston** colors the whole shebang. Look for it in December--and with an eye-catching **Dave Dorman** cover, it'll be hard to overlook!

SEND IN THE CLONES...

Before Comico's problems forced them to put their comic line on hold for a few months, they had announced an intriguing new mini-series, ***Atomic Clones***. This three-issue series by **Robert Loren Fleming, Paris Cullins** and his studio, and **Bill Anderson** takes the concept of genetic engineering to an extreme. Before it's over, the atomic Clones learn not only where they came from and why they created, but they also learn that what they thought they knew about themselves is a carefully constructed lie. Well, the Clones haven't been abandoned in comics limbo. They're back on the new Comico's schedule--and they should make their first appearance before the year is out.

Atomic Clones may be a limited series, but it doesn't exactly end after three issues: instead, it spawns two ongoing monthly series in 1991! To make sure that you don't miss this vital first issue of the miniseries, they've called on fan favorite artist Erik Larsen to make it easy for you to spot the comic on the stands--he'll be contributing an eye-catching cover that should help you take notice of the book. ***Atomic Clones #1*** is slated for December 8th release; it is priced at $2.50.

HARD BOILED FORMAT IS SCRAMBLED

This bit of news positively cries out for the "good-news-bad-news" approach--but we'll show some self-control and avoid it...this time. Dark Horse has reported that the second and third issues of the **Frank Miller-Geoff Darrow** series ***Hard Boiled*** will cost $1 more than the first issue did--but they're giving you quite a bonus for that dollar. ***Hard Boiled*** 2 and 3 will contain 48 pages of story and art, not 32 pages (as ***Hard Boiled 1*** did); that means that you're getting 50% more material for only 20% more money. Due to the addition of pages to each issue, ***Hard Boiled 2*** will be released in a few more weeks, while the third issue has been delayed until January '91.

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW COLAN STORY

Jughead's Time Police #5, on sale December 6th, is yet another Archie story illustrated by top talent **Gene Colan**. This issue takes Jughead back to the Civil War to try to discover the reason for the uncanny resemblance between Jughead and General Pickens. Meanwhile, January McAndrews has her hands full in the 29th century dealing with a 900-year-old "clone" of Jughead. The story is written by ***Rich Margopoulos***.

ROCKY HORROR HAS AN ENCORE

Caliber Press has decided to go back to press with the first issue of ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** to meet the amazingly strong demand for the book. The second printing of the first issue will feature an all-new cover to help differentiate the two editions. **Gary Reed,** publisher of Caliber, also said that some copies of the comic book were being made available to theaters running the film--but of course, comic shops will have the issues well in advance of the theaters. If you missed out on ***Rocky Horror*** the first time, you might want to reserve a copy of the second printing now to be sure that you get a copy before these, too, are gone...and don't forget the second issue, adapted by **Kevin VanHook**--it should be out any week now.

A VALIANT ATTEMPT AT CLARIFICATION

Ann Egan, director of sales at Valiant Comics, a division of Voyager Communications, noticed that ***CSN*** had mentioned ***Valiant Efforts #1*** as being a release from her company's Valiant Comics line. "It's an understandable error but nonetheless, an error," she said. "Valiant and ***Valiant Efforts*** are not associated in any way whatsoever." Everything else that ***CSN*** told you about the book is correct, including the contents and the price--and it is offered from a company called Valiant, but it's not the Valiant Comics company that will be publishing ***Magnus, Doctor Solar,*** and other popular titles in 1991. Got that straight?...

A+ CONFIDENT THAT ATOMIC MOUSE WILL GET A REACTION

Atomic Mouse, the anthropomorphic superhero star of is own series in the 1950's and 1960's, returns in his own 48-page reprint title beginning in December. ***Atomic Mouse*** is **Al Fago**'s post-nuclear updating of the funny-animal-superhero concept; he will be joined in each issue by Atomic Bunny and Atom the Atomic Cat, also done by Fago. Each issue will also spotlight rare funny animal comic strips from the 1940's; the first issue's spotlight is Walt Disney's own **Preston Blair**. ***Atomic Mouse #1*** is priced at $2.50.

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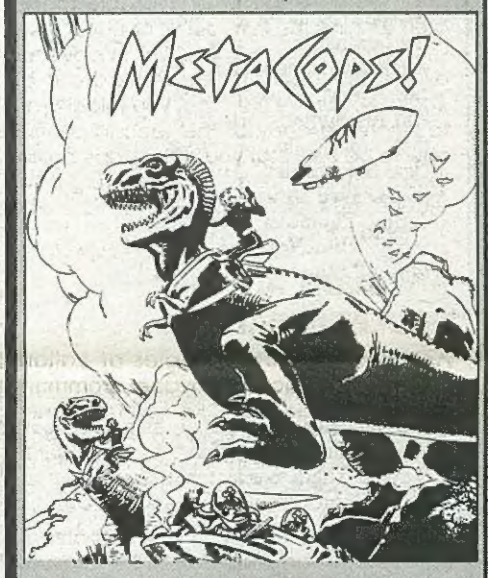
NEWSBRIEFS

METACOPS: NEVER META PROBLEM THEY COULDN'T SOLVE

Jayne Mansfield, Leonardo daVinci, Albert Einstein, and Delmore Schwartz. Certainly they're famous (well, at least three-quarters of them are). But what else do they have in common?

Well, for one thing, they're time-traveling cops whose job it is to protect the flow of history from those who would disrupt it.

That's the premise of ***Metacops***, a new series from Monster Comics. In this series, the Metacops face villains from bug-eyed monsters from the moon to Pan-Galactic Weasels to BEMs who've been hired by Lyndon Johnson to change history so that he can win the Vietnam War. Each issue takes the Metacops sailing up and down the timestream to preserve the integrity of history--and to give artist **John Heebink** a chance to draw dinosaurs, spaceships, and pulchritudinous women in a style more than a little reminiscent of **Wally Wood**. It's up to writer **Link Yaco** to come up with the offbeat stories for Heebink to illustrate--but with the freewheeling concept of this series, that's not much of a problem at all!



MetaCops 1, a 24-page super-gloss format title from Monster Comics, is an all-ages book priced at $1.95. The first issue is slated for December release.

THE SKETCHBOOK MOVES FROM THE TUNDRA TO THE COMIC SHOP

Fans who have looked forward to **Kevin Eastman's** and **Eric Talbot's** ***Melting Pot*** have been dismayed to see the series delayed time and again--but at last, it looks like fans will at least have an opportunity to see some of the Eastman/Talbot art for ***The Melting Pot***. The first issue of ***Sketchbook***, described by Tundra Publishing as "a new series...that will allow fans access to the rarely-seen artist sketchbook," will spotlight the art of ***Melting Pot***. The book will include "exclusive artwork, production sketches, layouts, and newly colored pages" that introduce readers to the world of ***Melting Pot***.

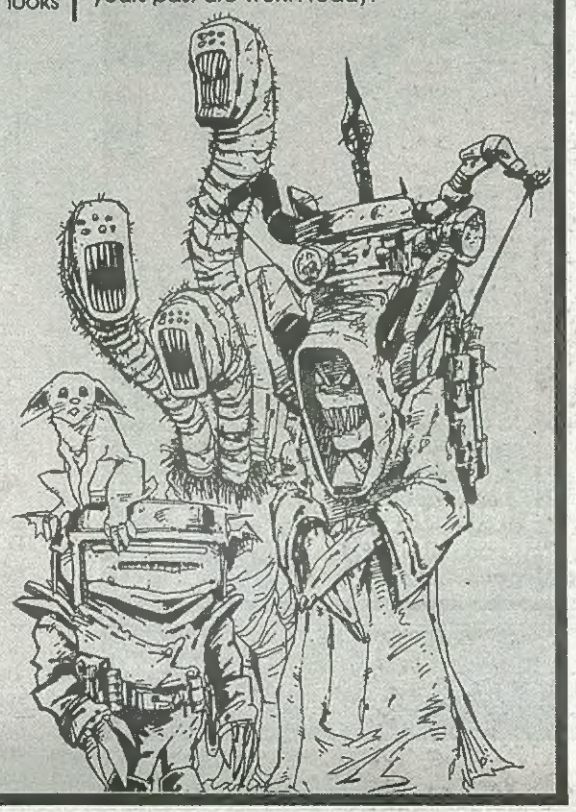
Sketchbook Book One: Melting Pot is the first in a series of ***Sketchbook*** volumes; future issues will feature work by **Steve Bissette, Michael Dooney, Craig Farley, Kevin Eastman** and **Peter Laird, Mark Martin, Dave McKean, John Totleben, Michael Zulli,** and **Kent Williams**. Each issue will feature 48 to 64 pages of never-before seen artwork. Most issues will feature 16 pages of color art and 32 pages of black and white line art in a prestige-format publication. ***The Sketchbook Book One: Melting Pot*** is scheduled for December release and is priced at $3.95.

LEAPIN' LIZARDS!

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #18 introduces a new character to the Turtles world: the skateboarding lizard teen known as Mondo Gecko. The character has already made his toy-store debut as an action figure, but this issue by **Ciarrain, Mitchroney,** and **Berger** marks his debut as a comic book character. He'll appear in "The Man Who Sold the World," a story that brings the Turtles and April back to New York City so that they can rejoin Splinter in an effort to hold off an alien invasion. Look for it on December 6th.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT!...

Comics Values Monthly has proven that there's a tremendous collectors' market out there that wants to know just what their comic books are worth. The publishers of ***CVM***, Attic Press, are convinced that there's another collectible field that could support such a monthly guide: toys. They're ready to give toy collectors up-to-date pricing info with ***Toy Values Monthly***, a 48-page publication with a full-color cover. In its first ten issues, TVM will cover action figures, bicycles, Disneyana, mechanical toys, toy soldiers, monster toys, model kits, railroad toys, space toys, super hero toys, and more. The first issue of ***Toy Values Monthly*** will have a special section on Action Figures, one of the hottest areas of the toy market. Each issue of ***Toy Values Monthly*** is priced at $2.95; the first issue should debut in December, just in time to find out what those Christmas gifts from years past are worth today!



GROENING LEAVES HELL FOR CONVERSATION

Matt Groening, the creator of the ***Simpsons*** and ***Life In Hell***, takes a little time off from his creations to talk with **Gary Groth**--and you can read the entire conversation in ***Comics Journal #141***. This issue also features an interview with the late **B. Kliban** and the first installment of a new **Harvey Pekar** column, "American Slander." January's ***Com-ics Journal 141*** is priced at $3.95.

ELEMENTAL-LY, MY DEAR SWAMP THING...

Swamp Thing #104 begins a major new storyline by **Doug Wheeler** and **Mike Hoffman**. "The Quest For the Elementals" presents Swamp Thing's mission to restore the Parliament to full strength before the Grey destroys it forever. Can the missing Green elementals be found in time? It'll take six months for us to find out--but at the same time, you'll find out some startling facts about Swamp Thing's origin. ***Swamp Thing #104*** hits comic shops on January 4th.

FIT TO BE TIED

Kitchen Sink follows up its October-release ***Nancy & Sluggo ties*** with a trio of comics ties in December. The ***Nancy Power Tie*** features a geometrically patterned dark blue tie with oodles of tiny Nancy heads arranged in a geometrical pattern. The ***Melody Tie*** features Melody and a host of symbols, including stars, saxophones, juke-boxes, etc., all printed on a black tie. The ***Omaha Tie*** features Omaha the Cat Dancer as a hula dancer on a sand-colored tie. Each tie is priced at $19.95--and you might want to reserve your fine neckwear at your local comic shop so that you're not fit to be tied if they sell out...

A CHANGE OF PLANS...

For the past couple of months, ***CSN*** has told you about Marvel's two public-service comics, ***Adventures in Reading Starring Spider-Man*** and ***Captain America Goes to War Against Drugs***. Both of those books were supposed to be available in comic shops across the country this month--but some sort of a snag has developed at Marvel.

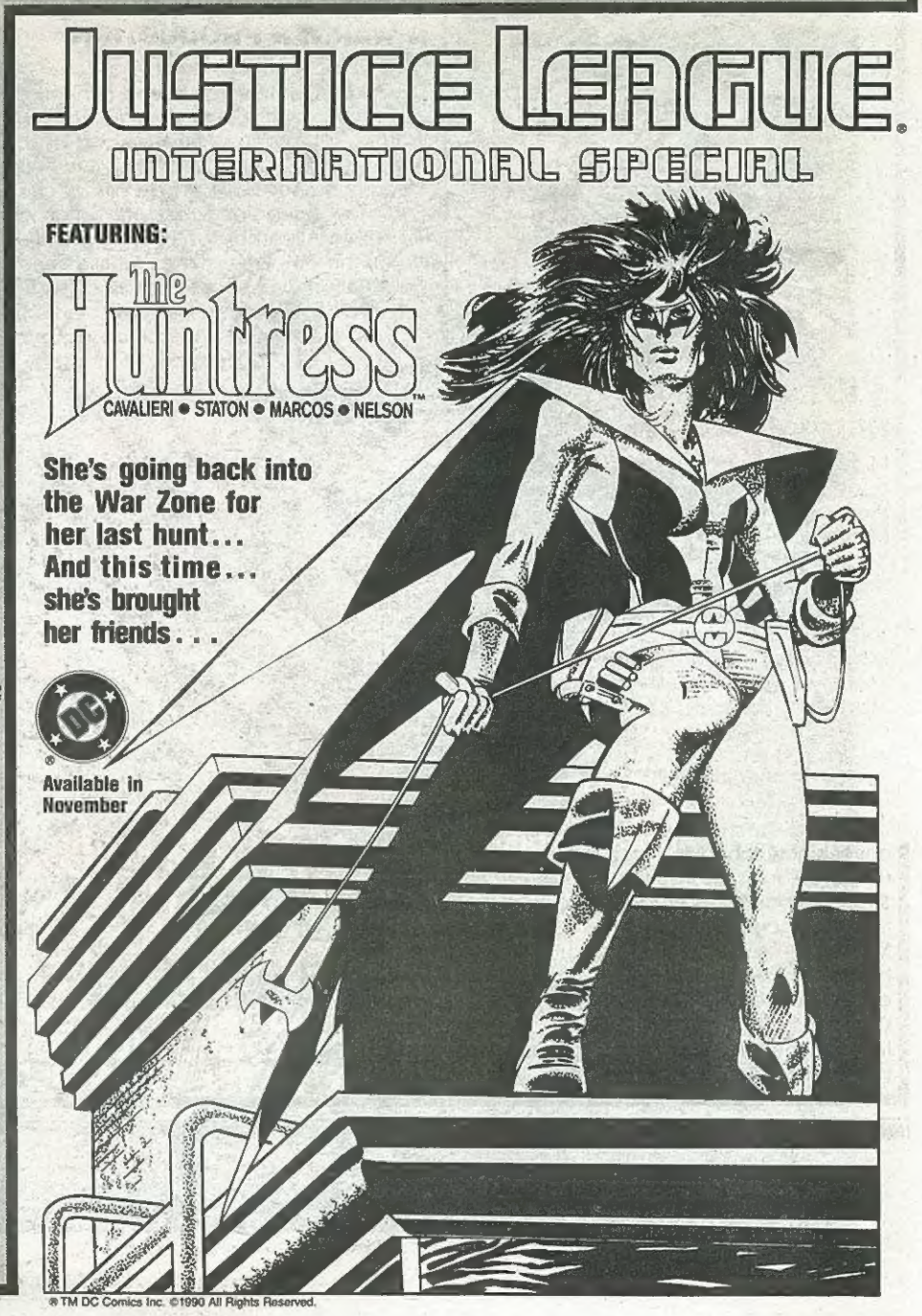
It seems that there's a policy on the books somewhere up the line that says that "public service pro-social comics" aren't to be sold, so both comics have been pulled from the comic specialty shops at the last minute.

You might want to drop Marvel a line for more information about this--and to let them know that you'd really like an opportunity to enjoy these two public-service books!

...AND A CHANGE IN GREENS

Plans continue to change for ***Incredible Hulk 377***, the upcoming issue by **Peter David** and **Dale Keown** that resolves the multiple-Hulk dilemma. This issue was originally supposed to have two different metallic-green-ink covers, but for some reason, the powers that be at Marvel downgraded this to a single-metallic-ink cover.

Now even those plans have been changed; instead of metallic ink, Marvel plans to use neon green and purple inks on the cover of this issue. Don't think that you've missed out on a collectible--it doesn't look like there are going to be any metallic ink covers on the ***Incredible Hulk*** in *any* edition.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CSN HOT PICKS!

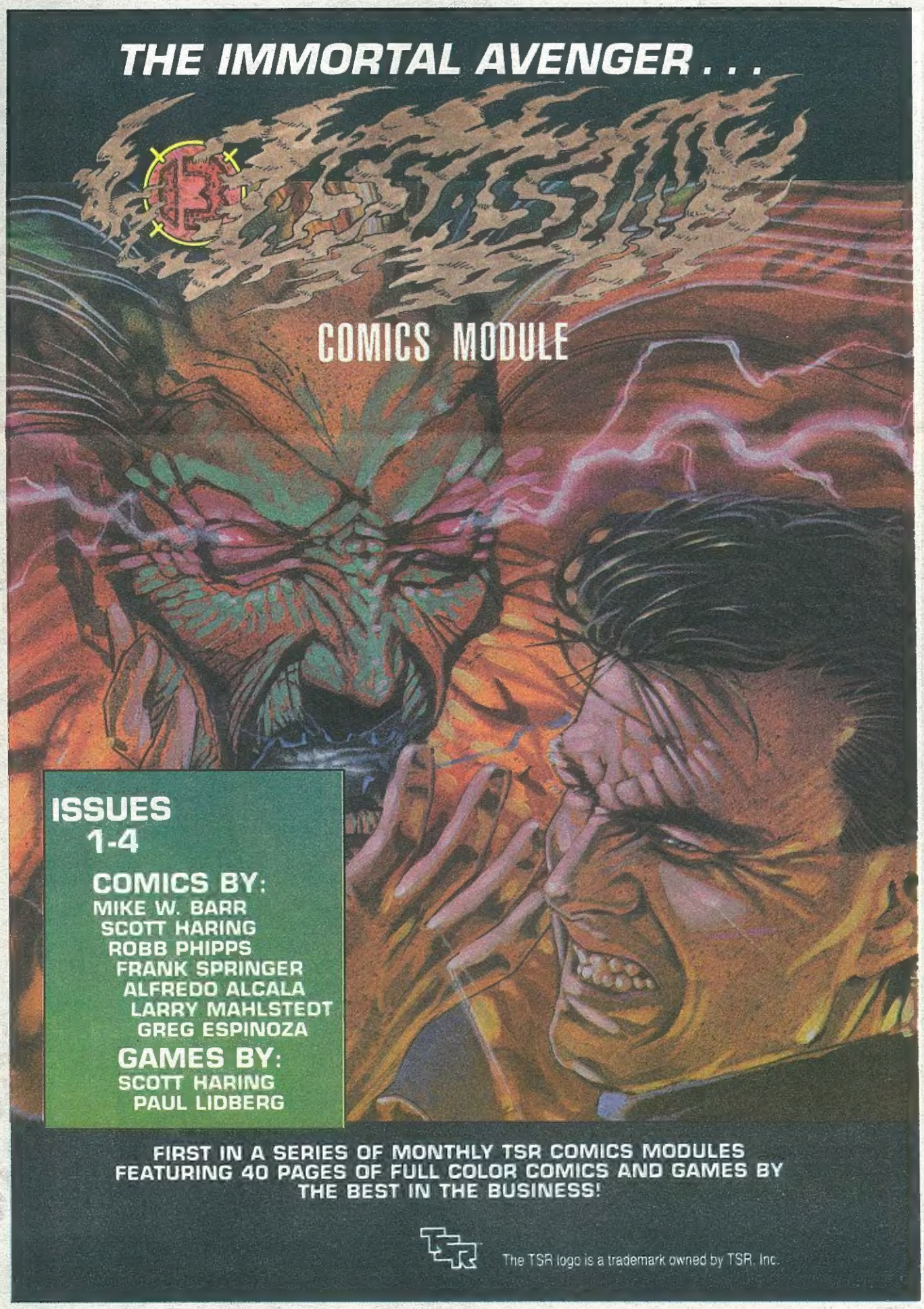
NOVEMBER HOT PICKS!

by Cliff Biggers

The holiday season is upon us–and let's hope that your budget is ready for the cornucopia of comics scheduled for this month! This month, there are five hardcovers on the list, as well as three posters, a non-comic reference work, and a heaping helping of bookshelf format one-shots and miniseries.

A-1 5

Who'da thunk that we'd ever have an opportunity to see an all-new Joe Kubert Tor story? Any all new Kubert story is a reason for celebration–but when the story is an all-new tale starring Kubert's famous prehistoric hero... As if this isn't enough to make ***A-1 5*** a hot pick for the month, there's also a story by Neil Gaiman and Kelley Jones, a new horror tale by Ramsey Campbell and David Lloyd, and the return of Jeff Hawke. All of this is reason for excitement in itself–but when you're destined to appear in the same issue as a new Tor story, it's akin to being the follow-up act on the Ed Sullivan Show starring the Beatles. *(Atomeka, $6.25)*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Alien Nation: A Breed Apart 1

Alien Nation may not be on television currently, but that doesn't mean the series has been forgotten. This second limited series is sure to be welcome by those who are caught in limbo until the Fox network comes to its senses and brings the television series back. This new limited series follows Newcomer detective Log b'Omen and his human partner Wayne Hadenfeldt as they investigation an assassination that may be Newcomer-related. This is the same sort of story that worked so well on the television series, so Jones, Timmons, and Palmiotti should make some ***Alien Nation*** fans very happy. *(Adventure, $2.50)*

Batman 3-D Graphic Album

Batman battling a trio of his most famous villains in a comic both written and drawn by John Byrne? That's exactly what fans will get in this new graphic album. As an added bonus, they get Byrne in three dimensions courtesy of Ray Zone. Need something else to convince you that this book is destined to have a very short shelf life? Howsabout pinups by Arthur Adams, Dave Gibbons, Jerry Ordway, and others? Top-notch creators and a very reasonable price to boot should make this an irresistible package. *(DC, $9.95)*

Books of Magic 1

DC brings in the all-stars for this four-issue limited series. Oh, the whole thing is written by popular British author Neil Gaiman–but four different high-caliber painters have been called on to furnish the art for this ultimate tale of magic in the DC Universe. The first issue sets up the storyline and takes readers on a scenic cruise through the magical realm of Earth's past–and John Bolton is on hand to take care of the visuals. *(DC, $3.95)*

CSN HOT PICKS!

Captain America: The Classic Years HC

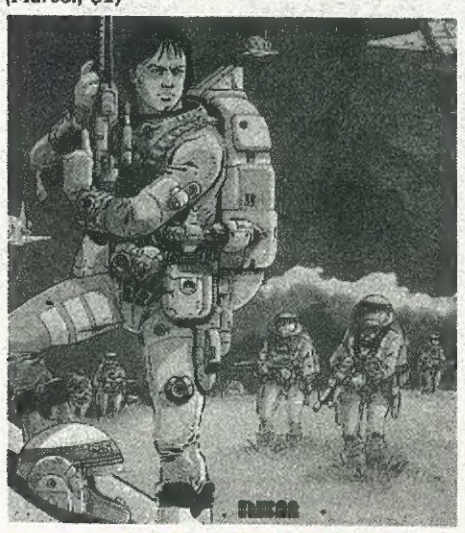
This two-volume set was a hot pick back in June when Marvel initially scheduled it under the title of ***Classic Captain America***. The name has changed, but the hit status of this two-volume slipcased set hasn't. ***Captain America: The Classic Years*** features the first ten issues of the Golden Age ***Captain America*** as presented a half-century ago by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby. This is quintessential comics work here, folks–with the accent placed on essential. *(Marvel, $75)*

Enemy Ace: War Idyll HC

Another rescheduled hot pick: this George Pratt hardcover was originally on ***CSN***s hot pick list in August. The book may be arriving a couple'a months later than planned, but it's still the same sophisticated, complex tale that we told you about at summer's end. A word of advice here: ***War Idyll*** is most likely extremely underordered in most parts of the country, so this one is likely to sell out quickly and be very hard to find. *(DC, $24.95)*

Fantastic Four 348

This is the sort of Fantastic Four that fans won't be able to get enough of: Spider-Man, Hulk, Wolverine, and Ghost Rider, as written by Walt Simonson and illustrated by the incomparable Art Adams. ***FF 348*** is the middle part of a three parter–so by the time it appears, fans will know how quickly the first issue sold out and they'll want to be sure they don't miss out. *(Marvel, $1)*



Forever War GN Volume 1

This NBM graphic novel adapts Joe Haldeman's Hugo-winning novel to comics; the art by Marvano is stylish work that'll have a strong appeal for European comics fans. SF fans are very loyal to the genre, so they'll help make ***Forever War*** one of NBM's most successful projects of the year. *(NBM, $8.95–also available in hardcover and limited edition at higher prices)*

Greatest 1950's Stories Ever Told HC

CSN 164 featured the results of a reader survey in which we asked what you wanted to see in trade paperback. Many of you asked for reprintings of debut appearances of such heroes as Flash, Green Lantern, Adam Strange, the Challengers of the Unknown and others. DC was tuned in to your wavelength, obviously; this hardcover collection is exactly the sort of "dream book" those fans asked about, reprinting the best DC tales from the 1950's (and insofar as the last half of the 1950's are concerned, this equates to the best comics of the 1950's regardless of publisher). ***Showcase*** issues of Flash, Challengers, and Green Lantern are here, along with an immense cross-section of other popular books from the early Silver Age. A lot of fans will appreciate the opportunity to once again enjoy the birth of the Silver Age... *(DC, $29.95)*

Gunhed 1

At last Akira gets some company! ***Gunhed*** is the new Japanese manga translation scheduled for full-color publication in America. The color is going to make it Viz' most popular title. It's the quality of the book that's going to give it the "legs" to continue attracting an audience, though, so demand for the first issue is sure to escalate as more and more fans find out about this high-tech-weaponry heavy-armor action-adventure title. *(Viz, $4.95)*

Incredible Hulk 377

So how can Peter David resolve the multiple-Hulk dilemma? We have no idea what he has in mind, but we're sure that there are going to be fans lined up to find out for themselves when this issue appears. It'll be especially easy to spot, since it'll make use of neon green and purple ink to call attention to itself (this replaces the green metallic ink originally announced for the cover of

CSN HOT PICKS!

this book--but fans aren't going to care, since they're buying it to find out what happens to the Hulk, not to find out what expensive ink the printer has in stock). This is the sort of landmark issue that many fans use as a jumping-on point to pick up a book that seems to be on its way to fan-favorite status. *(Marvel, $1)*

Justice League Quarterly 1

This is the first issue of a new Justice League title, folks. It's eighty pages long. It's funny. It's action-packed. And it's perhaps the best Justice League story of 1990. What more does one book need? *(DC, $2.95)*

Marshal Law: Kingdom of the Blind

Marshal Law has relocated to a new publisher--but his fans are going to find him on the comic shelves in the same place. This issue features a Pat Mills-Kevin O'Neill Batman take-off that fans are going to love. It also features the no-hold-barred Marshal Law mayhem that makes Judge Dredd look wimpy. *(Apocalypse, $5.95)*

Marvel Mystery 1 HC

It couldn't be gift-giving season, could it?... Here's another must-have hardcover: ***Marvel Mystery #1*** reprints the rarest of all Golden Age Marvel/Timely comics. This book features the first appearances of the Human Torch and Namor the Sub-Mariner, and it's available in this quality reprinting for about twenty-five grand less than a copy of the original. *(Marvel, $17.95)*

Marvel Poster Book 1

Todd McFarlane. 32 posters. Watch it go! *(Marvel, $2.50)*

Marvel Universe: Master Edition 1 & 2

Marvel has twice proven that there's an immense market for their Marvel Universe series; three's the charm here as Marvel offers the ***Master***

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BATMAN
by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg
INTRODUCING: THE BOY WONDER.
THE CIRCUS IS A CITY IN ITSELF... WITH ITS OWN TRIUMPH, TRAGEDY AND MADNESS!
THE FLYING GRAYSONS IN PERSON
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
10-29-90
ALFRED! HI! IT'S VICKI!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HELLO, MISS VALE.
I HAVE PREVAILED UPON MASTER BRUCE TO ENJOY HIMSELF AND STOP BROODING ON PAST EVENTS.
10-30-90
CRASSHH!
IT'S TOO BAD YOU AREN'T AS GOOD AT LIFE AS YOU ARE AT GAMES, BRUCE.
YES, ISN'T IT?
SO, WHY ARE YOU HERE, VICKI?
I'M GOING TO LENS THE FLYING GRAYSONS. THEY'RE AMAZING!
10-31-90
UNDER THE BIG TOP...
LOOK AT THAT BOY, BRUCE!
HE'S TOTALLY WITHOUT FEAR!
BRUCE, WHO ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
OH, I THOUGHT I SAW AN OLD FRIEND.
11-1-90
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THE FLYING GRAYSONS! THEY NEVER WORK WITH A NET!
THAT'S "GIGGLES" NELSON, THE MOB ENFORCER.
I WONDER IF HE'S HERE ON "OFFICIAL BUSINESS"?
11-2-90
HE SPINS INTO A TRIPLE... NO, A QUADRUPLE FLIP...
AND HE CATCHES THE BAR!
AND THERE YOU HAVE THEM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ...THE FLYING GRAYSONS!
11-3-90
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CSN HOT PICKS!

Edition of this ever-popular reference series. Like DC's ***Who's Who,*** this is pre-punched with 24 sheets per volume so that you can arrange it in whatever order suits you. This is the first part of a grand Marvel plan that will give fans the most complete reference work ever offered by any company. *(Marvel, $3.95 per volume; Marvel will also release a $7.95 binder to store the Master Edition volumes)*

Robin 1

There's a new Robin in the DC Universe, and the company is making sure that *everyone* knows about it. This is the first time in comics history that any Robin has ever starred in his own mini-series; with the publicity it's getting, you can expect ***Robin 1*** to bring back memories of 1989's Batmania. *(DC, $1)*

Spider-Man 6

Perhaps we should give Todd McFarlane a *permanent* home on the Hot Picks list. You'd think it would be difficult for him to come up with anything more popular than his first five-parter–but here he is, with a two-parter guest-starring Ghost Rider. Remember how hot the Ghost Rider-Punisher two-parter was? You ain't seen nothin' yet!... *(Marvel, $1.75)*

Steed & Mrs. Peel 1

The Avengers are back on television–and they're coming back to the comics racks as well. The first time The Avengers appeared in comics form as ***John Steed and Mrs. Peel*** was over twenty years ago, and the book was less than an overwhelming success. This time around, Eclipse has called on top talents like Grant Morrison and Ian Gibson to create an Avengers story that'll be a must-have for anyone who ever enjoyed Steed and Peel on television. *(Eclipse, $4.95)*

Terminator 4

Now had a modest success with their ***Terminator*** title–but it was *nothing* compared to the incredible popularity of Dark Horse's ***Terminator*** limited series. Arcudi and Warner have created a Terminator story that the second film will have a hard time matching. Demand is still strong for the out-of-print early issues of this series, so the climactic final issue should leap off the shelves. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Winter Special 1

The Turtles meet the Archie gang? It's offbeat enough that it'll appeal to fans of the Turtles as well as fans of Archie and the Riverdale crew. Odds are this will be one of the more under-ordered comics of 1990. *(Archie $2.50)*

Usagi Yojimbo Book 4 HC

Usagi Yojimbo has been a perennial fan-favorite and one of Fantagraphics' most popular titles. This hardcover is the ultimate must-have for ***Yojimbo*** fans, since every signed and numbered limited edition copy will also feature an original Usagi Yojimbo sketch by creator Stan Sakai. *(Fantagraphics, $35.95)*

Wolverine: Bloodlust

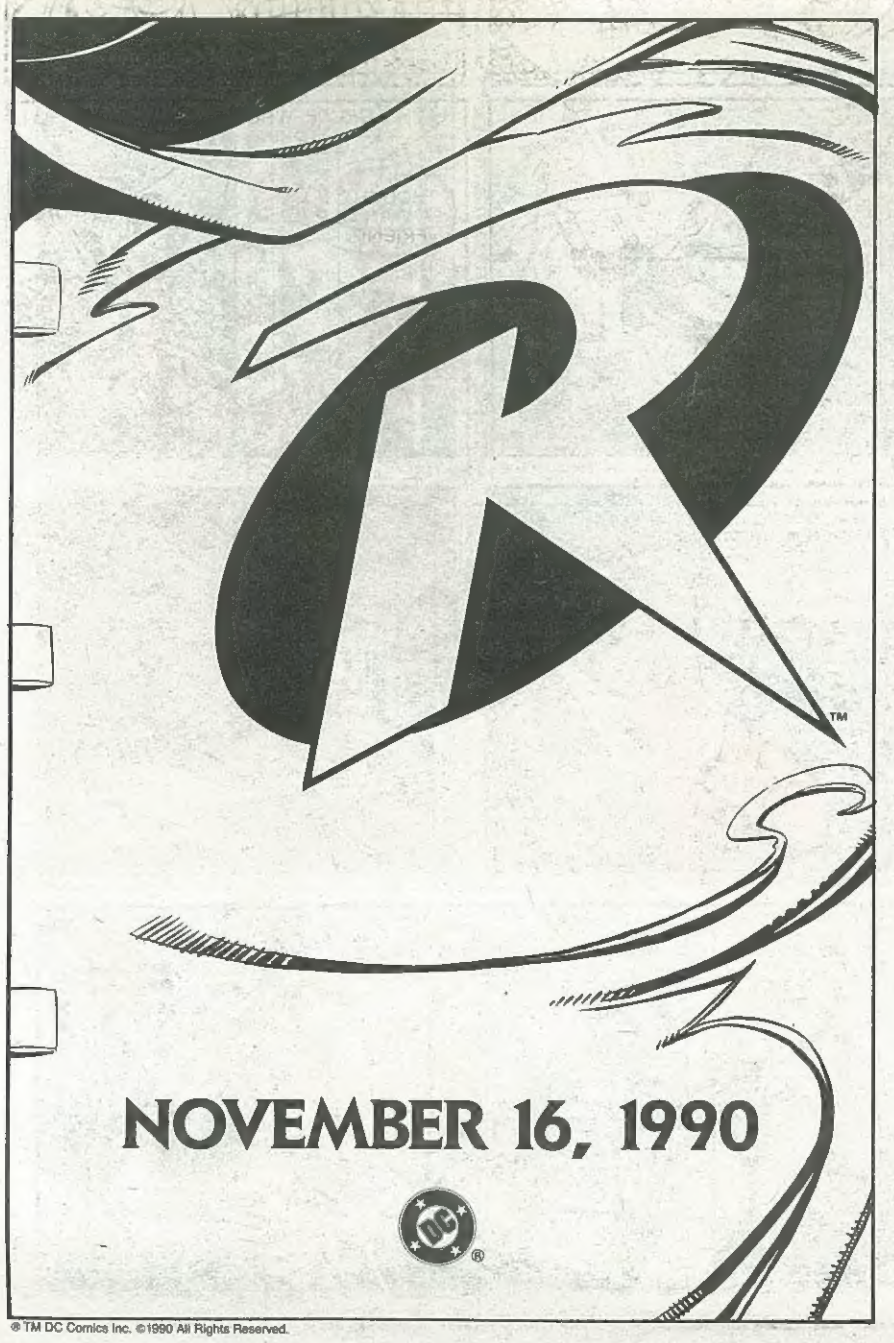
Think of this as a bookshelf-format ***Wolverine Annual.*** That's enough to guarantee excellent sales. Now add art and story by Alan Davis with inks by Paul Neary and you have a package no Wolverine fan can resist. This 48-page issue takes Wolverine back to his homeland of Canada and explores the hero's more savage side. *(Marvel, $4.95)*

X-Men Triptych Poster 1-3

One Jim Lee X-Men poster would make fans very happy. *Three* Jim Lee X-Men posters that can be displayed as one gigantic poster of the entire team?...the concept speaks for itself. *(Marvel, $5.95 @)*

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Timothy Truman's ***Wilderness*** series has been praised by historians, scholars, and comics critics; nevertheless, there are still a number of fans out there who haven't taken a look at this superlative story of the life of Simon Girty. Now Truman has made it easier than ever for fans to enjoy ***Wilderness:*** he's collected both graphic albums into one specially designed slipcase and has included a signed limited edition print at no additional charge. ***The Wilderness Parfleche*** is a bargain package that proves comics can be more than simple entertainment. *(4Winds, $24.95)*



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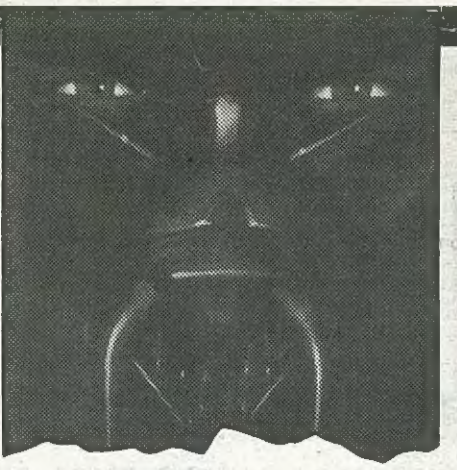
"...the Earth hath skin, and the skin hath diseases. One of these... is called man."
—nietzsche

WORLD WITHOUT E·N·D

Six Issues
Fully painted
Special Format
From DC Comics

By Jamie Delano and John Higgins.

Beginning in November
Suggested for Mature Readers



The Ultimate Man has nothing to fear... ...except the Ultimate Woman.

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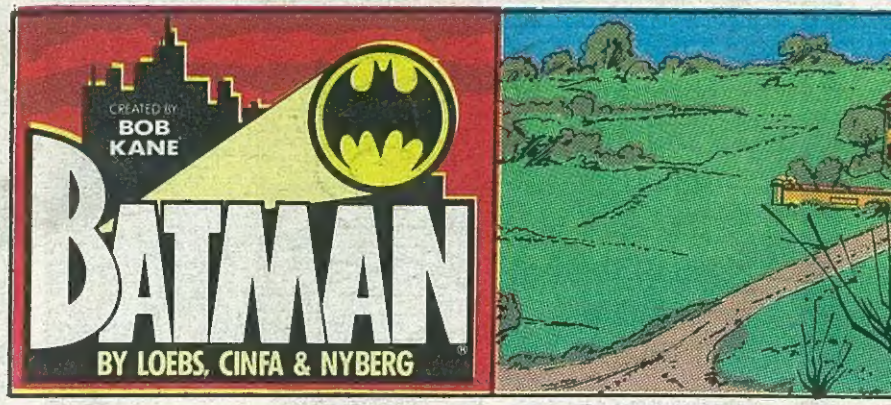
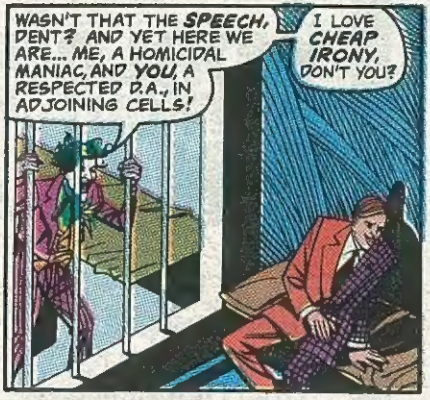

CREATED BY
BOB KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

AND SO, MEMBERS OF THE JURY, CAN THE RULE OF THE LAW SURVIVE WHEN CLEVER CRIMINALS USE INSANITY TO CLOAK THEIR HEINOUS CRIMES!


WASN'T THAT THE SPEECH, DENT? AND YET HERE WE ARE... ME, A HOMICIDAL MANIAC, AND YOU, A RESPECTED D.A., IN ADJOINING CELLS!
I LOVE CHEAP IRONY, DON'T YOU?

HA HA HA HA HA HA

HEY, BUB. WHAT YOU DOING 'ROUN HERE? THIS LAN POSTED, 'CAUSE OF ARKHAM ASYLUM!

10-28-90
SHUT UP, JOKER. I'VE LOST MY POSITION, MY WIFE, MY SELF-RESPECT ...EVEN MY SANITY ...I'VE LOST EVERYTHING!
NONSENSE, OL' PAL...YOU STILL HAVE ME!
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JUST LOOKING. I HAD TO PUT MY BEST FRIEND IN THERE...
YOU KIDDIN' ME? THOSE GUYS ARE ALL MURDERERS! MANIACS! WHO D'YOU THINK YOU ARE, THE BATMAN?
NEXT: MEET... THE BOY WONDER!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG